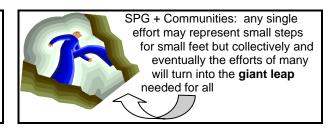
STATE PLANNING GRANT (SPG) ON ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE OVERVIEW, April 2002

SPG Accountable to Federal Government for:

- 1. Profile of Washington's uninsured
- Options/strategies for improving access to affordable coverage and adequate benefits

Interim Report Due October 2001 Progress Report Due March 2002



Washington SPG Research Work

- Profiles -- Detailed profiles of the uninsured population are being matched to detailed profiles of the current coverage and care pathways, including rigorous analysis of the gaps, overlaps and barriers.
- Strategies -- Analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of a universe of potential coverage and access options is being cross-walked to a similar analysis of strategies historically tried or in place in Washington (including, where appropriate and achievable, quantifiable impacts of strategies on specific uninsured and at-risk populations).
- □ **Linkages** -- Detailed assessment is being conducted of the links between identified gaps, overlaps, and barriers to coverage and care (in specific populations and circumstances) and the analysis of improvement strategies.
- Individual Affordability -- Significant energy is being devoted to understanding what individuals can afford to pay for coverage and care, compared to the reality of what's available to them. We consider this a "lynchpin" issue for crafting future coverage and access strategies.
- System Affordability -- Significant effort is also focused on administrative simplification strategies and partnerships, including options for reducing the currently complex array of insurance products (while still maintaining choice and variety). Creating a more affordable system via strategies that avoid unnecessary costs, reduce provider administrative burden, and set the stage for effective consumer-driven buying is directly relevant to improving access.
- Community Partnerships -- Building partnerships with community-based efforts and organizations addressing related issues is also a focus of our work. Mutual understanding of the issues faced, the solutions contemplated, and the flexibilities and accountabilities needed on all sides are part of this work.

Washington SPG Status

- Deliverables -- Working titles of phase one research deliverables to be received from consultant team are:
 - Data for Assessing Access to Health Insurance Coverage in Washington State
 - Profile of the Uninsured: Targeting the Uninsured in Washington State and Income Adequacy and the Affordability of Health Insurance in Washington State
 - Potential Policy Options for Enhancing Access to Health Insurance Coverage
- □ **Time Extension** –Year extension approved.
- □ Extension Activities: Examples of activities include
 - Stakeholder input and feedback on research findings provided by the consultants
 - Refined quantitative analysis of findings based on public input
 - Partnership building regarding coverage and simplification strategies

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